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Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Sixth session
Budva, Montenegro, 11–13 September 2017
Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda
Procedures and mechanisms facilitating the implementation of the Convention: reporting mechanism

Draft decision VI/7 on reporting requirements*

Prepared by the Bureau

Summary

The present document, prepared by the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, sets out a draft decision on reporting requirements. The document was prepared on the basis of decisions I/8, II/10, III/5, IV/4 and V/8 on the same subject, adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its first to fifth sessions. The only substantive amendments as compared with decision V/8 are in the fifth preambular paragraph (acknowledging the usefulness of the national implementation reports), in paragraph 7 (regarding the failure to submit reports for previous reporting cycles) and paragraph 11 (concerning the discontinuation of the submission of paper copies).

The document was submitted to the Working Group of the Parties in view of its mandate to "make such proposals and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties as it considers necessary for the achievement of the purposes of the Convention" (ECE/MP.PP/2/Add.15, para. 2 (d)).

* There have been no major substantive changes made to the most recent version of the text, published as document ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2017/L.9. The present document is therefore being submitted for publication without formal editing.

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Please recycle

At its twenty-first meeting, the Working Group revised and approved, as amended at the meeting, the draft decision on access to information (AC/WGP-21/CRP.7),[1] and requested the secretariat to submit it to the Meeting of the Parties for consideration at its sixth session

[1] Available from http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=43897#/.

The Meeting of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions I/8, II/10, III/5, IV/4 and V/8 on reporting requirements,

Recalling also the mandate of the Compliance Committee set out in paragraph 13 (c) of the annex to decision I/7 on the review of compliance,

Having considered the reports submitted by Parties and the synthesis report (ECE/MP.PP/2017/6) prepared by the secretariat pursuant to paragraphs 1 to 5 of decision I/8,

Having also considered the report of the Compliance Committee and its addenda (ECE/MP.PP/2017/... and Add...),

Acknowledging the usefulness of national implementation reports, as valuable input to the work of task forces, capacity-building activities, environmental performance reviews and other review programmes,

Considering that the reporting procedure as set out in decisions I/8, II/10 and IV/4, including the revised reporting format as set out in the annex to decision IV/4 and the procedure regarding translation of the reports as set out in paragraphs 14 to 16 of decision IV/4, should continue to apply for the next reporting cycle,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the implementation reports submitted by three quarters of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters pursuant to paragraphs 1 to 4 of decision I/8;

2. *Welcomes* the synthesis report prepared by the secretariat pursuant to paragraph 5 of decision I/8;

3. *Also welcomes* the reports submitted [by non-governmental organizations, ...] pursuant to paragraph 7 of decision I/8;

4. *Considers* that these reports provide a valuable overview of the status of implementation of the Convention, as well as help to identify significant trends in and challenges to implementation, which will help to guide future activities;

Timely submission of reports

5. *Notes with concern* that 3 Parties that submitted reports did not do so within the deadline indicated in decision II/10;

6. *Reiterates its encouragement* of Parties to start the preparation of national implementation reports in future reporting cycles sufficiently in advance of, and at the latest six months before, the deadline for submission of the reports to the secretariat set out in decision II/10, with a view to ensuring meaningful public consultation on the reports at the national level;

Failure to submit reports

7. *Notes with regret* that Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Slovenia, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the European Union, all of which were Parties to the Convention at the time of the deadline for submission of the implementation reports, failed to submit reports for the current reporting cycle;

8. *Calls upon* each of those Parties to submit its national implementation report to the secretariat by 1 November 2017, for subsequent consideration, inter alia, by the Compliance Committee;

Public consultation

9. [*Welcomes* the fact that most Parties prepared their reports through a process involving consultations with various governmental agencies as well as civil society;]

10. *Encourages* Parties to ensure transparency and public consultation during the process of the preparation and submission of the reports;

Preparation of reports for the next session of the Meeting of the Parties

11. *Decides* to discontinue submission of hard copies of the reports to the secretariat;

12. *Requests* the secretariat to circulate to all Parties and relevant stakeholders a formal reminder of the reporting requirements, including guidance on the preparation of the reports, as well as the proposed timing and confirmation of the date for the submission of the reports to the secretariat in accordance with decision II/10, paragraph 9, at least one year in advance of the next session of the Meeting of the Parties.